The solution of the Jewish problem in the terms of the period was individual assimilation. But this was a feasible programme only so long as applied to small, scattered groups, or merely to the upper classes in large Jewish communities; dense masses, living in a world of their own, cannot be effectively "assimilated". Individual Jews rose to wealth, distinction, and social rank, and in most cases, they, or their descendants, ceased to be Jews (as happens also with Dissenters in England). The great masses of the Jewish people remained poor, ill-adjusted to their surroundings, and even to each other, for they did not form an economic, self-sufficing, and self-protecting entity; and they had no one to speak for them except in terms about as well suited to their needs, economic and moral, as Smiles's *Self-Help* was to those of the British working classes.

The rise of Jewish democracy, *i.e.* the entry of the Jewish masses into politics, was bound to result in the rise of a Jewish nationalism, unpleasant and disturbing to the "better-class" Jew who had made his exit from integral Judaism, or was hesitating in the nameless realms of half-sincere compromise. He was high-minded, broad-minded, open-minded., and without roots, for he lacked the live touch with any living community. He wanted to become "assimilated" and yet to remain apart, trying to stop short

of what alone could have fully achieved the ideal of assimilation—the complete merging of the Jews in the community in which they lived. His conception of Judaism merely as a religion was curiously superficial and self-contradictory. For that which distinguishes th& Jewish religion in its modern form from, say, Christian Unitarianism, is merely the national tradition which most of the adherents of Liberal or Reform Judaism profess to reject. By refraining from complete amalgamation and by maintaining their separate racial and historical identity, of which they deny the existence, they have kept themselves suspended in mid-air—moral *Jjuftmensohen^* who provoke criticism among their